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Weisberg,

Harold

GARRISON, Jim

CIA4 Cuba

Johnson, LYNDA

~~P. Behn~~

SOC 4.01.2 You Are

the Jury

# Critics Still Doubt Slayer Was Alone

By MARTIN WALDRON  
Special to The New York Times

FREDERICK, Md., Nov. 21— But even after 10 years, Mr. The day begins at 5 A.M. for Jones can be reduced to out- Harold Weisberg, former agent rage bordering on incoherence of the Office of Strategic Serv- by a discussion of the official ices and occasional investigator investigation. "There are delib- for the Senate who for the last erate errors in the volumes" of commission testimony, Mr. few years has been on a per- Jones said the other day. sonal crusade to find out the truth about the Kennedy assas- sination.

Shortly after Mr. Weisberg begins stirring in the chill Mary- land dawn, Penn Jones Jr., a short, stubby newspaper editor 1,500 miles away in Midlothian, Tex., drives out to his farm to check on his cows, then on to the office of the weekly Mid- lothian Mirror. Mr. Jones has the same hobby.

Together, they are the un- official leaders of an energetic group of Americans who do not believe the Warren Com- mission report that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone when he shot and killed President Ken- nedy and who are still conducting private investiga- tions into that assassination.

Some of the doubt that has arisen over the Warren Com- mission finding that Oswald was the lone assassin has grown out of a decision not to release some of the testimony taken in secret. Medical re- ports were also kept sealed until last year, when an out- sider for the first time was allowed to examine some of them.

The dozen or more experi- enced trial lawyers hired by the commission to compile and analyze evidence agreed unani- mously that Oswald was the lone gunman, although there was wide disagreement among the lawyers about many de- tails.

The three military doctors who performed the autopsy on President Kennedy's body have never expressed doubt that Mr. Kennedy was killed by a bullet that struck him in the back of the head. Almost all of the critics have argued that the fatal shot came either from the side or from the front.

And just this week, a former commission staff lawyer, David Behn, published a book, "You Are the Jury," defending the commission's finding that Os- wald was the lone assassin and attempting to rebut the com- mission's critics.

Governor John B. Connally Jr., and then on through Mr. Con- nally's wrist into his leg.

"Once that theory is de- stroyed, we must conclude that more than one person fired," said Dr. Wecht, who is past president of the American aca- demy of Forensic Sciences.

A theory that President Ken- nedy's assassination was ar- ranged by munitions makers has been made into a movie, "Executive Action."

The movie is based on a novel by Mark Lane, a New York City lawyer who was one of the early critics of the War- ren Commission and who pub- lished a book, "Rush to Judge- ment," which was critical of the commission's investigation. Among the majority of Americans either convinced or open to the idea that others besides Oswald were involved in the assassination—64 per cent in a Gallup poll released in January, 1967—was Presi- dent Johnson.

Leo Janos, a Time magazine writer and a former Johnson aide, said that President John- son had told him a short time before his death that he had never believed Oswald acted alone.

Writing in The Atlantic Monthly, Mr. Janos said that President Johnson had told him that "a year or so before Ken- nedy's death, a C.I.A.-backed assassination team had been picked up in Havana. Johnson speculated that Dallas had been a retaliation for this thwarted attempt" to kill Cuban Premier Fidel Castro.

Mr. Weisberg, who has pub- lished four well-received and carefully researched books about the assassination, says that the circumstances of Mr. Kennedy's murder cry out con- spiracy. He says he views the Warren Commission investiga- tion as a "whitewash," the name he gave to three of his books.

Most of the doubt about the Warren Commission's finding has been based on conflicting statements by witnesses. But these views have been backed in recent years by scientific in- quiry.

Dr. Cyril H. Wecht, coroner of Allegheny County, Pa., (Pitts- burgh) said last year after studying autopsy material that had been kept secret for almost eight years: "From a hard phys- ical, evidentiary standpoint, there was more than one person shooting." The single-bullet theory is absolute nonsense."

The Warren Commission con- cluded that one bullet pierced President Kennedy's neck, went through the chest of then Texas